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Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

March 2013

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. The NH Performance Assessment Network

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE), in partnership with the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) and National Center for Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA), is undertaking the development of a state-wide performance assessment system that will balance local control with state-wide accountability and comparability. This NH Performance Assessment Network will include:

- a set of common performance assessments that have high technical quality in the core academic subjects,
- locally designed assessments with guidelines for ensuring high technical quality,
- regional scoring sessions and local district peer review audits to ensure sound accountability systems and high inter-rater reliability,
- a web-based bank of local and common performance assessments, and
- a network of practitioner “assessment experts” to support districts and schools.

The NH Performance Assessment Network is engaging New Hampshire’s school districts in developing valid and reliable performance assessments to build and measure mastery of competencies in local and state student assessment systems. We are seeking districts that wish to have their schools join a K- 8 and/or a high school cohort, beginning summer 2013, to undertake this work. All applications will be due electronically by Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. A webinar for interested applicants will be held on April 11, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. An application and more information can be found at www.education.nh.gov/assessment-systems.

Contact: Mariane Gfroerer. (603) 271-6691, Mariane.Gfroerer@doe.nh.gov

B. College and Career Ready Competencies Aligned With Common Core State Standards

On February 20, 2013, the NH State Board of Education approved competencies in mathematics and English language arts aligned to the Common Core College and Career Ready Standards for statewide use. These competencies were developed by teams of New Hampshire educators under the guidance of the National Center for Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA). The competencies documents were field tested in New Hampshire schools and by higher education faculty for use in assessing student work. The competencies may be found on the NH DOE Web site at www.education.nh.gov/competencies.

Contact: Mariane Gfroerer. (603) 271-6691, Mariane.Gfroerer@doe.nh.gov

C. Smarter Balanced Update

On February 20, 2013, members of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) began administering a Pilot Test of the assessment system in schools across the country. The Pilot Test is the first of two large-scale tryouts of the assessments prior to implementation in the 2014-15 school year. Through the Pilot Test, Smarter Balanced will gather information about the performance of assessment items and the test delivery system under real-world conditions. Participation in the Pilot Test is voluntary for schools. Smarter Balanced recruited approximately 6,000 schools as part of a scientific sample to ensure that data from the Pilot Test fully represents the Consortium. However, all schools in Smarter

Balanced member states may register to participate in the volunteer portion by March 27. To volunteer go to www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test.

- The scientifically selected schools will be involved in testing with the Smarter Balanced Pilot through May 24, 2013. Throughout the country approximately 1 million students will be involved. Those schools who have volunteered to participate in the later portion of the Pilot may be contacted for inclusion in the scientific portion.
- As of 2/26/13, approximately 8,937 schools across the 21 Smarter Balanced governing states were tested.
- NH schools selected for the scientific portion of the Pilot will be, or arrange for, testing between 3/6/13 – 5/24/13.
- NH schools participating in the Pilot have been able to access Smarter Balanced Pilot relevant information, manuals, tutorials and training modules through the Smarter Balanced Portal (<http://sbac.portal.airast.org>).
- Questions about the Smarter Balanced Pilot Test can be directed to smarterbalancedhelpdesk@air.org.

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844 Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

CERTIFICATION

A. National Board for Teaching Standards Certification

New Hampshire offers \$1,000 towards the cost of an educator seeking National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. For more information on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards see www.nbpts.org.

Contact: Judith Fillion, (603) 271-3855, Judith.Fillion@doe.nh.gov

B. Alternatives 4 and 5

Alternative 4 and 5 certification plans are due four weeks from the start of an educator's employment. The educator can be employed in only one area in which the educator has a SOE (Statement of Eligibility). The preferred method of submission is in PDF from the applicant to the Superintendent who in turn submits to the DOE. Please review the new Alt. 4/5 Guide on the DOE Web site (www.education.nh.gov/certification) for further information.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196 Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov.

C. Employment Reporting

Just a reminder that all educators employed with New Hampshire districts must have their employment status updated every year. This includes all SAU office staff, such as the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Administrator. This will effect their ability to renew online if the employment information is not updated. The Bureau of Credentialing is relying on districts to enter the data as we no longer use the Personnel Action Form (PAF). For technical issues with the i4see uploads please contact i4see.help@doe.nh.gov.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov or
Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196 Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov.

D. Renewal Late Fee:

Please inform educators whose credentials expire June 30 of this year, that the late fee is being re-instated and will apply to all employed educators whose transmittal form (postmarked) or their online renewal is received after July 1, 2013 at midnight. While components of the new on-line system were being developed and implemented, that fee had been suspended to allow for adjustment to the new process.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov

E. Teacher Certification Brochure

To access our online brochure regarding teacher certification and setting up accounts, go to: www.education.nh.gov/certification. The brochure can be found in the center of the page.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. i4see – Initiative for School Empowerment and Excellence**a. NH Alt Registration**

The i4see workbench is now open for districts to register students for the Alternative Assessment process. The window will close on April 12, 2013. School districts should register all students who are the responsibility of the district, no matter where they attend school.

b. Spring NECAP Labels

The i4see workbench will be open for the first round of spring NECAP Science Labels from March 4 through March 27, 2013. This submission is for grades 4, 8 and 11. Please remember to use the submission type NECAPspr in the second column of these uploads. These files only need to be batch verified. Certification of NECAPspr is not needed.

c. School District Meeting Information

Please remember to submit to the Bureau of Data Management the following information from School District Meetings:

- School District calendars (watch for the NEW automated calendar instructions!)
- School Board lists, and
- Teacher Salary Schedule for 2013-2014.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop at (603) 271-2831 or i4see.help@doe.nh.gov

B. MS-22 Forms (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted)

A completed Form MS-22 (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted) for each school district must be forwarded to the Bureau of Data Management within 20 days of the close of the school district meeting as required by RSA 198:4-a, II.

Contact: Ron Leclerc, (603) 271-3876, Ron.Leclerc@doe.nh.gov

C. Webinar: EIS /Course and Class Assignments/HQT

A webinar training session is planned for March 28, 2013 from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will review course and class submissions, HQT, and provide guidance on selecting the best subject/assignment for various courses. It is now time to work on the HQT data clean-up for the 2012-2013 school year. Register for the webinar here:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/631107672>

Contacts: Cyndy Currier, (603) 801-0444, ccurrier@mac.com (for assistance with the submissions)

Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov (for assistance with credentialing)

Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov (for HQT questions)

GED

A. GED Test® Update

Please disseminate this information to school staff members likely to be in contact with current or former students considering GED Testing. **The current generation of GED Tests will end on December 31, 2013.** Any test-taker who begins GED Testing but who does not complete and pass the entire test battery by the end of 2013 will have to start over.

A Request for Proposals for a 2014 High School Equivalency Test for New Hampshire has been issued. The test selected may be the 2014 GED Tests or an alternative assessment. In the meantime, the primary goal now is to encourage students seeking the NH High School Equivalency Certificate to complete the current GED Tests before the end of 2013.

Contact: Debbie Tasker, (603) 271-6699, Deborah.Tasker@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Alternative Education Programs

This Request for Proposal is released in anticipation of NH Legislature funding approval in Spring, 2013 for FY14 and FY15. Proposals have been submitted to the Governor's Office for continued funding of Alternative Education programs for the next biennium. To attempt to ensure timely starts for Alternative Education programs we are releasing this anticipatory RFP prior to the legislative budget process in the Spring of 2013 for FY 14 and FY 15.

The New Hampshire Dropout Prevention and Dropout Recovery Oversight Council is currently seeking proposals from all interested applicants (school districts, community-based organizations, postsecondary institutions, faith-based organizations, agency collaboratives, etc.) to increase graduation rates by providing alternative education options to:

1. Increase current capacity to students at-risk of dropping out that are between the ages of 16 to 21 and enrolled in secondary education.

2. Collaborate with Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to implement strategies and/or programs to serve underclassmen entering or enrolled in secondary education to achieve their graduation requirements.

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals 4:00 p.m., March 15, 2013

Contact: Susan Randall, (603) 271-3809, Susan.Randall@doe.nh.gov

B. Educational Surrogate Parent Program: Regional Master Surrogate Parents

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is currently seeking proposals for up to five (5) Regional Master Educational Surrogate Parents who will be responsible for providing management, phone support, and e-mail support for educational surrogate parents in their assigned regions. The Master Educational Surrogate Parent will also be responsible for temporary appointments as the educational surrogate parent in situations that require immediate appointment, situations that are viewed by the Department to need a master educational surrogate appointed, and situations where another available educational parent in the region cannot be identified. The five (5) regional groups are: (1) North Country; (2) Lakes Region; (3) Southwest; (4) South Central; and, (5) Southeast. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2013.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

C. Out-of-School Youth Workforce Investment Act

The New Hampshire Department of Education seeks proposals to provide employment and training services to economically disadvantaged youth who are out-of-school with specific barriers between the ages of 18-21 inclusively. Approximately \$177,000.00 is anticipated to be reserved for these Requests for Proposals respectively for PY13 and PY14. These funds are 100% federally funded through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Title I - Youth. The proposal due date is noon on March 15, 2013.

Contact: Kim Runion, (603) 271-3806, Kim.Runion@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. NH Networks

The NH Networks is an on-line social network that enables educators across NH to collaborate and access resources on a secure NH network. Great work in education is going on all over New Hampshire, but it's often sectioned off into pockets making it challenging to collaborate and learn from each other. One of this site's core aims is to address that problem. The New Hampshire Network's features let users connect to educators, reach out to experts in the field, explore hundreds of curated resources in our KnowledgeBase library and join the communities and networks that are being launched across the state.

In the next couple of weeks, when you login to the Single SignOn (<https://my.doe.nh.gov>) you will see a new application in your list "NH Networks."

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov

NH HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN

A. High School Redesign in Action

High School Redesign in Action is the New England Secondary School Consortium's fourth annual conference for secondary educators to share success stories and exchange best practices that will help schools prepare all students for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century. The conference will take place from 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 21st until 2:15 p.m. Friday, March 22nd at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, MA. For more information or to register go to www.newenglandssc.org/conference.

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

A. Minimum Standards for Public School Approval

As required by statute, the New Hampshire State Board of Education is in the process of conducting a regular review of the state minimum standards. At the January 14th meeting, committee members discussed a fundamental question: How well do the current Minimum Standards provide the opportunity for all students to be college and career ready? Realizing all this, the committee is at a crossroads with the alignment of the state Minimum Standards and preparing all students for college and careers. Overall, the sense of those present was that as currently written, the Minimum Standards do not do this (noting that there was further discussion to start defining "preparation"). To this end, committee members agreed to engage with colleagues around the following key questions:

1. Should the Minimum Standards outline what is required to provide all students the opportunity to be college and career ready?
2. If you agree that the current Minimum Standards don't do this, what areas should be removed or reduced in order to focus in this direction?
3. Knowing that different size districts have varying levels of capacity, how should these changes be implemented?
4. If you believe that the Minimum Standards should not outline what is required to provide this opportunity to all students, how should the committee proceed to best align the Minimum Standards requirements with the other supported efforts of the State?

The next meeting will be held March 14th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the NH DOE. We have established a page on our Web site to make this review process transparent and available to all (www.education.nh.gov/legislation/ed306review.htm).

Contact: Keith Burke, (603) 271-3846, Keith.Burke@doe.nh.gov or
Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Retooling for the Common Core: Professional Learning for Measurable Results

The Learning Forward New Hampshire Conference will take place on Friday, March 15, 2013 at SNHU in Manchester. New Hampshire's Professional Development Master Plan is closely aligned to Learning Forward's *Standards for Professional Learning*. Stephanie Hirsh and Victoria Duff from Learning Forward will keynote this day-long conference. For more

information or to register go to www.lfnh.org or contact Deborah S. Roody, (603) 472-2062, learningforwardnh@gmail.com.

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES

Scott Mantie, Ph.D. has joined the Department as the Administrator for the Bureau of Accountability and Assessment. He owns Institutional Effectiveness, LLC, which provides education and organizational consulting throughout the North East, most recently working with the Department as the NH State Lead for the K-12 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. He has also worked as the Director of Assessment for East Carolina University, Greenville, NC and as the Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness for Plymouth State University. You can reach Scott at (603) 271-3844 or Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov.

RESOURCES

A. The Period of PURPLE Crying for Teens: Understanding Infant Crying.

The Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth has funding to provide 20 resource kits to high schools in New Hampshire called: *The Period of PURPLE Crying for Teens: Understanding Infant Crying*. This is a primary prevention project to prevent abusive head trauma in infants. The Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth has been working with the Abusive Head Trauma Coalition in New Hampshire for several years to explore primary prevention strategies to prevent abusive head trauma, or what was formerly known as shaken baby syndrome. This form of child maltreatment is the most lethal form of child abuse and infants are at highest risk for death. It has been identified that crying is the most common trigger in these abusive events. For more information contact: Debra Samaha, Program Director/Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth at debra.samaha@dartmouth.edu or (603) 653-8360.

B. ENC-Teacher Exchange

Color-coding foods into three categories that mimic a traffic light to help elementary school students distinguish good foods (green light) from unhealthy foods (red light) is proving to be a very successful nutrition education device in Colorado and elsewhere. "Go Slow Whoa" is one of the many resources available by the ENC-Teacher Exchange, a free web-based program for teachers that offers new and updated teaching methods that can help combat rising obesity trends in K thru 12 schools. For more information please visit www.encteacher.org.

OTHER

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Nominations are now being accepted online until April 1, 2013 for the 2013 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The PAEMST online application will soon be available at www.paemst.org. To apply, teachers must first be nominated for the award. Teachers may nominate themselves, or someone else (e.g., principals, teachers, parents, or other members of the general public) may nominate them for this award. Once nominated, teachers will receive an e-mail with a login and password to access the online application. The application deadline for secondary school teachers (grades 7-12) is May 1, 2013.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Awardees are recognized for their contribution to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. In addition to honoring individual achievement, the goal of the award program is to exemplify the highest standards of mathematics and science teaching.

Contact: Jiffi Rainie, (603) 271-7450, Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov (for science)
Christine Downing, (603) 863-3540 x109, cdowning@sau43.org (for mathematics)

Doris Barnes Retired Educator Lifetime Achievement Award

The Board of Director's for the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award (The "ED"ies) is seeking nominees for the "retired educator of the year" award known as the "Doris Barnes Retired Educator Lifetime Achievement Award." This award was created to honor a retired teacher or teachers who have continued to work with youth and the betterment of public education after his/her retirement as has the person for whom it is named. A nominee must be retired after spending a minimum of 20 years as a full-time educator. It is also expected that the nominee can describe how they have stayed involved working with youth or on other vital issues related to education since retirement. For an application or more information go to www.edies.org. The application deadline is March 15, 2013.

Boston New England Scholarship

The Boston NE National Academy of Television Arts And Sciences (NATAS) Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (in coordination with the Boston/New England Chapter of the NATAS) will award a \$2,500 scholarship to a high school senior who intends on declaring their major in the television or related field and will be attending a four-year undergraduate college or university.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) High school senior graduating in 2013
- 2) Intends on declaring their major in the television or a related field
- 3) Will be attending a four-year undergraduate college or university
- 4) New England resident
- 5) Completed application

For an application or more information go to <http://newenglandemmy.org/student-awards/2013-bostonnew-england-scholarship/548-2>. The deadline is April 19, 2013.

Fisher Cats Foundation Scholar-Athlete Scholarships

The Fisher Cats and the Fisher Cats Foundation are proud to support our youth through the Fisher Cats Foundation Scholar-Athlete Scholarships. Each year, the foundation awards \$2,500 scholarships to ten New Hampshire students and two Massachusetts students. Fisher Cats Foundation Scholar-Athlete Scholarship recipients will be selected using criteria that includes academic achievement, athletic achievement and active citizenship. For an application and more information go to www.nhcf.org/page.aspx?pid=958. Applications will be accepted through April 15, 2013.

Project Yellow Light

Project Yellow Light is a scholarship competition designed to bring about change. As an applicant you have one clear mission: encourage your peers to develop and embrace safe driving habits. Simply create a 25 or 55 seconds video designed to motivate, persuade and encourage your peers to not drive distracted. Submit your video along with your contact information on or before April 1, 2013. For more information or to apply go to www.projectyellowlight.com.

STEM Scholars Program

Nationally, one million students with STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) backgrounds will be needed to meet business needs in the next decade and NH employers are already reporting shortages. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation will help meet the challenge of attracting and retaining STEM students by providing up to \$500,000 in scholarships for New Hampshire students studying in STEM fields. Deadline is April 15, 2013. For more information and to apply go to www.nhcf.org/page.aspx?pid=1270.

Fire Safety Poster Contest and Calendar

This first poster contest is being organized by the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal and the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society and is open to all third graders. The winning posters will be set in a calendar and the student artist along with the teachers and parents will be invited to an awards ceremony and celebration. Once the calendars have been printed every student and teacher who participated in the contest will receive one. Their goal for fire prevention is to make fire safety a part of daily life throughout the year in the homes of all the residents of New Hampshire. For additional information on the New Hampshire Fire Safety Calendar Program call Mary MacCaffrie at The Office of NH State Fire Marshal at (603) 223-4289 or by e-mail at Mary.MacCaffrie@dos.nh.gov. Deadline: March 29, 2013.

2013 NH High School Short Film Festival

The New Hampshire Film & Television Office, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, will once again present the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which will take place in June 2013. Students from NH public and private high schools are encouraged to submit projects no longer than 7 minutes in length, which do not have to be created as part of a class assignment. The submission period closes March 31, 2013. More details are available at www.nhstudentfilm.com. Media arts faculty interested in receiving updates about the Festival via e-mail should contact film@nh.gov.

Artist Residency in Schools (AIR)

AIR grants provide partial funding to bring juried teaching artists into classrooms and public schools to support creative learning and skills development in the arts. AIR grants support partial costs for artist residencies in a variety of arts disciplines. AIR projects are intended to set a model for this work. For more information go to www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/partners/artistresidencies.htm or contact Catherine O'Brian, Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov. Deadline: April 12, 2013

Youth Arts Project Grants: for Extended Arts Learning

Youth Art Project Grants (YAP) fund high-quality arts and cultural education programs that encourage creativity, develop new arts skills and foster academic success for young people. The overall goal of this grant offered by the NH State Council on the Arts is to provide young people increased opportunities to engage in the arts beyond the normal school day so that

they can develop creative problem solving skills and become more engaged with their communities. Activities may take place after regular school hours, in the summer or on weekends, in or/and outside of the school. Partnerships between schools, arts organizations and community organizations are encouraged. For more information go to www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/youtharts.htm or contact Catherine O'Brian, Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov. Deadline: April 19, 2013

The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching

The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching brings together hard-working classroom teachers and highly skilled poet/teachers to share time-tested approaches to making poetry an essential element of the classroom. This conference will take place June 23 - 27, 2013 and graduate and continuing education credit are available in partnership with Plymouth State University. Deadline to register is May 15, 2013. To register and for more information go to www.frostplace.org or contact Sarah Audsley at (603) 823-5510 or saudsley@frostplace.org.

K-12 Nanotechnology Teacher Conference

Nanotechnology is the latest "revolutionary" technology that is bringing sweeping changes to the 21st Century. Some of the applications are already here. Find out what they are, and how they will affect the lives and professions of your students in the near future. This conference will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the Holloway Commons on the Campus of The University of New Hampshire, Durham. It is free and open to all K-12 teachers with a knowledge of or interest in science and technology, however registration is required. Deadline, March 25, 2013. Please contact: Susan Greenberg, K-12 Outreach Coordinator, at UNH, Parsons Hall, 23 Academic Way, Durham, NH 03824, (603) 862-3325, 862-4278 fax, email susan.greenberg@unh.edu.

LESCN 5th Annual Spring Conference

Educating in the 21st Century...and Beyond! An Educator's Guide to Personalized Learning in the Cloud will take place Monday, April 1, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Church Landing at Mills Falls in Meredith. For more information and a link for online registration please visit <http://bit.ly/lescn2013> or contact Tammy Morse at (603) 543-4200 ext. 261 or tmorse@sau6.k12.nh.us.

Living on the Edge of Empire: Alliance, Conflict and Captivity in Colonial New England

Presented by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, the Living on the Edge of Empire workshop places the Deerfield Raid of 1704 in the broader context of the history of colonial New England. Workshop scholars will explore global issues while also considering ways in which this history can offer a compelling entry point for teaching the complexities of the early American colonial period and the many cultural groups who comprised it –Native nations, enslaved Africans, the French and English settlers. This Workshop will take place in Deerfield, Massachusetts, from July 7 to July 12, 2013 or July 28 to August 2, 2013. For more information go to <http://edge-empire.deerfield-ma.org>.

Fisher Cats Educational Days

The New Hampshire Fisher Cats have announced the team's Educational Days for the 2013 season. Schools can choose from the following games:

- April 10th (10:35 a.m.)

- April 25th (10:35 a.m.)
- May 8th (10:35 a.m.)

Join schools from across the State as they take part in an educational setting while attending a professional baseball game. The Fisher Cats encourage you to plan your lesson plans around your field trip to the park. There will also be:

- Interactive educational material on the video board
- Pre-Game educational activities on the field
- Educational exhibits and entertainment on the concourse
- Historical characters walking around the stadium

Tickets for this event are offered at a discounted rate and vary from \$5-\$8. For more information or to book your group go to

www.milb.com/team2/page.jsp?ymd=20100513&content_id=10015030&vkey=team2_t463&ext=.jsp&sid=t463 or contact Stephanie Fournier at (603) 641-2005 ext. 105 or e-mail sfournier@nhfishercats.com.

Free Access to the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston

P. Andrews “Andy” McLane, a member of the MFA Board of Trustees, and his wife, Linda Harper McLane have established the McLane Family New Hampshire Student Membership Program. The program provides free access to the Museum for all students (regardless of residency) attending New Hampshire elementary schools (public and private) through college, as well as homeschoolers and school groups. Also eligible are all residents of New Hampshire attending schools out of state. The program provides entry to all MFA galleries and exhibitions, including the current New Hampshire-related exhibition Art of the White Mountains. For more information please contact Karen Frasca at (617) 369-3442 or kfrascona@mfa.org.

Great American Teach-Off

Amy Steinberg, a fifth grade teacher in Kensington, NH has been selected as one of ten national finalists in the Great American Teach-Off. Co-sponsored by GOOD and University of Phoenix the Great American Teach-Off is a contest that will award the top voted K through 6 teacher and top voted 7 through 12 teacher a \$10,000 classroom grant. Voting opened on March 4th and in a course of five weeks, the GOOD community will vote for their favorite teacher. The ten national finalists were chosen based on parent, school board, or colleague recommendations and essays, explaining what lengths these teachers go to in order to share their knowledge and passion with their students. Every Monday, the finalists will share videos on the GOOD Web site around a specific theme (How am I an innovative teacher? How do I make a difference? etc.). Based on vote counts, two finalists will be eliminated each week until they're left with a winner. Please go to www.good.is/great-american-teach-off to vote.

N.H. Poetry Out Loud Championships

The statewide final competition for the 2013 New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud program will take place at Representatives Hall at the State House in Concord on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. The event is open to the public and there is no charge for admission. At the event, 11 finalists from the state's four semi-final competitions will recite poems. By the end of the evening, one student will be selected to represent NH at the national championship in Washington, D.C., where a

total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be awarded to top-placing students. For more information go to www.nh.gov/nharts/programs/services/POL/2013/index.html.

Social Security Disability Benefits for Children - How Schools Can Help

The Social Security Administration through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) makes payments to disabled or blind children under the age of 18. When school records are requested, a form is included for the child's current teacher or the teacher most familiar with the child to complete regarding function in the classroom. Schools can help by expediting the request for school records and by teachers expeditiously completing the teacher questionnaire and returning it. Please spread the word. Let others at the school know how important school records and information from the teacher are in the disability process.

Contact: Peggy Vieira, 271-3341, x306, Peggy.Vieira@ssa.gov